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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT

#9

Serial No.: 10/088,877
Filing Date: August 5, 2002
Applicant(s): FAN et al.

Group Art Unit: 1722
Atty. Docket: 78104.041

Title: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PRODUCING SEMISOLID METAL
SLURRIES AND SHAPED COMPONENTS**

**ASSERTION OF SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.27)**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

To the Commissioner:

The undersigned attorney, who is a named representative of the Applicant of the above-referenced application, hereby certifies that the Applicant, as well as any assignee of the Applicant for the present application, qualifies for small entity status under 37 CFR §1.28. *Small entity status is therefore asserted and small entity fees will henceforth be paid in this application.*

If any questions regarding the application arise, please contact the undersigned attorney. Telephone calls related to this application are welcomed and encouraged. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments relating to this application to deposit account number 18-2055.

For the Applicant,

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I certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

3-28-03

Date of Deposit

3-28-03

Date of Signature

Signature